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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda, Hasina greet Mahathir

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Dr Mahathir bin Mohammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, on the occasion of the Malaysian National Day. Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina also greeted the Malaysian Prime Minister on the occasion.

Help for Chinese flood victims

Bangladesh has donated one lakh US dollar to help the recent flood victims of China. Bangladesh Ambassador to China Mustafizur Rahman on Monday handed over a cheque of the amount to Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, reports UNB.

Dan Quayle's denial

WASHINGTON, Aug 30: Former Vice President Dan Quayle today denied media reports he had decided to run for president in 1996 but said he was "thinking about it." The reports said Quayle decided to run after encouraging sales of his book "Standing Firm," reports Reuters.

Many trapped as bldg collapses in Seoul

SEOUL, Aug 30: An unknown number of people were feared trapped when a four-storey commercial building collapsed in northern Seoul this morning, television reports said, reports AFP.

Ciller cancels Cairo visit

ANKARA, Aug 30: Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has cancelled planned visit to Cairo on September 5 to attend the UN population conference, an official statement said today. It said she would be too busy preparing for the opening of parliament in early September, reports Reuters.

The population conference has come under fire from Muslim activists, who say its position on birth control contravenes Islamic values. The Vatican has also denounced the forum.

Noting that Bangladesh has

On agenda for possible Govt-Opposition dialogue

Opposing camps issue conflicting statements

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling party and Opposition leaders continued to make contradictory statements regarding the possible agenda for any dialogue between them to end the current political stalemate.

Briefing newsmen at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban after the opening session of Parliament yesterday, marked once again by empty Opposition benches, Deputy Leader of the House Badruddoza Chowdhury said he had sent specific proposals to the rival camp expressing his party's willingness to discuss on any agenda to end the impasse.

On the other hand, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim told newsmen at another briefing that no

Party chief and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

chaired the two-hour meeting.

Prof Chowdhury said the treasury bench would hold discussions with all the opposition parties in a bid to make them return to the Jatiya Sangsad. The BNP, he said, had already made contacts with the Jamaat-e-Islami over telephone and would make

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had also informed his party colleagues about the progress so far towards a dialogue at last night's BNP PP meeting.

Meeting sources said the party MPs and ministers discussed the political and economic situation, the drought in northern part of the country and the food stock.

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Opposition MPs stay away as JS goes into its 16th session

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS), on the first day of its 16th session yesterday, enacted a legislation listing laws the employees of government and autonomous bodies were not entitled to regular monthly allowances from the benevolent fund if they retired on health and mental grounds despite having made regular contributions to the fund during their service life.

He said until now employees used to get allowances from the benevolent fund only when they were declared disabled on health and mental grounds and removed from service.

Yesterday's two-hour long session of Parliament also witnessed the introduction of a fresh Companies Bill, 1994 which according to the Commerce Minister, would replace the Companies Act of 1913.

Explaining the objectives of the bill, Commerce Minister Aminul Huq said under the ex-

posed law would be a timely legal measure to meet the present-day requirements of the companies.

The bill, if adopted by the House, would also ensure accountability in the management of the companies and bring about a degree of discipline in their administration," the minister added.

Earlier, obituary references were made in the House on Awami League (AL) member of the present Parliament Rawshan Ali and former members M U Muttalib, M A Awal, Syed Kamrul Islam Mohammad Saleh Uddin and a former Provincial Assembly member Khoda Box Choudhury.

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